



Side Event: Best Practices in Local Stakeholder Consultation in the CDM and other Climate Mitigation Mechanism

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Practice: Santa Rita LSC process



- Santa Rita Hydroelectric Plant, Icbolay River, Alta Verapaz, Guatemala
- Estimated amount of annual average GHG emission reductions : 52,131 tCO₂
- Category: Renewable electricity generation for a grid
- Run of river hydroelectric plant with an installed capacity of 24.2 MW¹, a nominal capacity of 23.2 MW² and an estimated mean annual production of 99.867 GWh per year
- The project implementation was initiated in 2009

LSC and HR issues

- Communities are living in complete dependence of the river water, the implementation of the project violates their right to water and adequate food, as well as their freedom of movement
- Many of the affected people were never consulted in accordance with the obligatory public participation process enshrined in the Guatemalan Agreement on Identity and Rights of Indigenous Peoples, the Council Development Law and the rules of the CDM registration process
- HR violation in response to the demonstration of the local interests' preoccupation:
 - Intimidations of the affected community
 - Persecution of leader communities
 - Burning of 25 houses
 - Attacks with machete and firearms by plant employees
 - 3 alleged murders incl. 2 children of 11 and 13 years



CDM EB decision

- The Council of Tezulutlan sent 3 letters to the CDM EB (22/12/2013, 19/03 and 20/05/2014) to inform them the PDD failed to consult all the local stakeholders and that the registration of Santa Rita Hydroelectric plant will violate human and indigenous peoples' rights
 - The request for a review of the hydropower plant registration as a CDM project is accorded by the EB// first ever to be formally reviewed on the grounds that the local stakeholder consultation was not carried out in the proper way
 - Despite these grave concerns, the project is registered the 02/06/2014 and the letter sent out the 05/06/2014 from the EB specifies the project is in compliance with the CDM requirements, incl. regarding the LSC.
 - OHCHR is at present investigating the Santa Rita project and the Human Rights Violation due to its implementation, as well as Inter-American Commission on Human Rights about the indigenous People Consultation
- ➔ Current local stakeholder rules not adequate to reject/put on hold CDM project activities where concerns about human rights violations exist